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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02731 142055Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 IO-13 /044 W
----------150515Z 077818 /21
R 141641Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4868

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EC, BL
SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF LABOR CONFEDERATIONS OF THE ANDEAN PACT

REF: (A) LA PAZ 2401, (B) QUITO 2250,

1. RENE HIGUERAS DEL BARCO WAS THE REPORTING SECRETARY FOR CENTRAL OBRERO BOLIVIANO (COB), THE NUMBER THREE POSITION. HE WAS ALSO ONE OF THE THREE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOLIVIAN FEDERATION OF URBAN TEACHERS. THE BANZER GOVERNMENT DISOLVED COB SHORTLY AFTER BANZER TOOK POWER AUGUST 1971. IT APPEARS THAT SOMETIME DURING THIS SAME PERIOD HIGUERAS WAS EXILED OR FLED BECAUSE OF HIS WELL KNOWN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE UNDER PRESIDENT TORRES.

2. HE RETURNED CLANDESTINELY TO BOLIVIA DURING 1975 AND WAS ARRESTED WITH A GROUP OF LABOR, POLITICAL AND UNIVERSITY PEOPLE IN ORURO JULY 1975 AT THE CHURCH OF AGUA DE CASTILLA. (THE ILO GOVERNING BODY DESCRIPTION OF THIS EVENT BEING POUCHED). HIGUERAS WAS DETAINED ONE YEAR IN BOLIVIA FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND THEN EXILED TO CHILE IN JULY 1976. THE GOB
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IDENTIFIED HIGUERAS AS A MEMBER OF JUAN LECHIN OQUENDO'S PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO IZGUIERDA NACIONALISTA (PRIN). HOWEVER, KNOWLEDGEABLE LABOR OBSERVERS STATE THAT HE IS A LONG TIME MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST. (SINCE EARLY 60'S). HIGUERAS FREQUENTLY REPRESENTS HIMSELF AS A LEADER OF COB-IN-EXILE AND HAS ATTENDED SOME INTERNATIONAL

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CONFERENCES IN THIS GUISE. HE IS REPUTED TO BE
AN EFFECTIVE DEMOGOGIC ORATOR BUT IS NOT RPT NOT
CONSIDERED VERY INTELLIGENT. HIGUERAS HAS SOME
LABOR SUPPORT IN BOLIVIA (PARTICULARLY AMONG
THE URBAN SCHOOLTEACHERS). HOWEVER, AS THE ILO
OBSERVED HE DOES NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT ANY
SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ORGANIZED LABOR. MOST
IMPORTANTLY HE WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE FSTMB
(MINEWORKERS) WHO CONSTITUTED THE DOMINANT
ELEMENT WITHIN COB.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, EXILES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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